NEP 2020 amalgamates education with aptitude, UU ethos, skill, egalitarianism: Dr Jitendra

Five injured in Rajouri road accident

Khour Dangal Committee hosts Dangal Tournament: Ravi clinches title, women wrestlers shine

Nebsite: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Shri Amarnath Yatra registration begins; devotees queue up at designated bank branches

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The offline registration for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra began with enthusiastic pilgrims making a beeline outside the designated bank branches here on Tuesday, hoping to get an opportunity to be part of the first batch to visit the revered shrine.

The 38-day pilgrimage is scheduled to begin on July 3 from the twin routes -the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

The yatra will culminate on August 9, coinciding with the Raksha Bandhan festival.

Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), which manages the annual pilgrimage, has designated a total of 540 bank branches across the country for advance registration of the pilgrims, in addition to the online facility for registration on its website which started on

According to the board, no one below the age of 13 or above 75 and women with more than six weeks' pregnancy shall be registered for the pilgrimage.

"The advance yatra registration commenced this morning with intending devotees, both men and women, turning up early to secure their slot for the annual pilgrimage," an official of the



Women queue up in Jammu for Shri Amarnath Yatra registration on Tuesday.

Punjab National Bank, Rehari branch,

He said the registration is a must for all the pilgrims intending to undertake the yatra.

Expressing happiness over the start of the advance registration, Ajay Mehra, a local resident, said they have been waiting for this day to be among the first to visit the shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivling.

"This is my seventh yatra this year and I am happy to be here to get registered," he said, asking devotees to come for 'darshan of the Baba Barfani' as "the happiness you will get there cannot be found anywhere else"

Amid chants of 'Bham Bham Bole' by

the devotees, he said that the experience of visiting the shrine cannot be described in words.

Sham Lal Dogra, another pilgrim waiting in the queue, said this will be his 45th visit to the shrine this year, while several women said they are visiting the shrine for the first time and are excited for getting their prayers fulfilled.

"I waited for many years and this time my dream to visit the shrine will get fulfilled," Asha Devi said.

Atika, a college student, said almost all her family members including parents had visited the Amarnath shrine and "this time it is my turn to pay obeisance there". Kusum Gupta (50) said she just ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

IAF airlifts 41 passengers in AN-32 Kargil Courier; 3,192 availed facility this winter

■ STATE TIMĖS NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Air Force airlifted a batch of 41 passengers in AN-32 Kargil Courier from Jammu and Kashmir to Tuesday Ladakh on marking the last flight of the season, an official said.

The Kargil Courier Service was started on February 8 to facilitate ferrying of stranded passengers between the two Union Territories after the closure of 434-kilo-Srinagar-Leh National Highway due to heavy snowfall in Zojila.

The service operated between the twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar, and Ladakh's Kargil district.

A total of 3,192 passen gers were airlifted till date, the official said.

He said 1,370 passengers were airlifted from Jammu to Kargil and 289 passengers from Kargil to Jammu, while 1,211 passengers were airlifted from Srinagar to Kargil and 322 passengers from Kargil to Srinagar.

Need to increase cultural exchanges between States, UTs: LG

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the 'Himachal Diwas' celebration at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

Lieutenant JAMMU:Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday attended the celebration of 'Himachal Diwas', hosted by Jammu Kashmir Raj Bhawan at Jammu.

Security personnel, students and the people of Himachal Pradesh living in J&K UT were the special invitees for the evening.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations and best wishes to the people of Himachal Pradesh on the occasion.

"This Devbhoomi is blessed by nature, rich spiritual and cultural heritage and vibrant traditions.

>> LG attends 'Himachal Diwas' celebrations at Raj

Says, 'Devbhoomi - HP' is blessed by nature, rich spiritual, cultural heritage and vibrant traditions. I pray that aspirations of people of this state are fulfilled and Himachal keeps strengthening nation's

When people from different states and regions share traditions, food and art they reduce division and bridge gaps

Cultural exchanges between the states and UTs under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat can also spur economic benefits. Local festivals will attract tourists and cross-state collaborations will help in curating mega festivals and also boost community pride and local economies

NIA files chargesheet against Pakistani handler,

two others in J&K terror conspiracy case

emerged as a major hub for is significantly contributing hydropower, and this sector

Terrorists, SFs exchange fire in Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A brief exchange of fire took place between terrorists and security forces in a vil-

Poonch district, officials said on Tuesday. The gunfire rattled the Lasana village of Surankote Monday night when security forces following information about

Srinagar witnesses

hottest April day in

nearly 8 decades

SRINAGAR: The city on

Tuesday recorded the hottest

April day in nearly eight

decades at 30.4 degrees

Celsius which was 10.2

degrees above normal for

this time of the season, offi-

The summer capital of

Jammu and Kashmir recorded the highest ever

maximum temperature of

31.1 degrees Celsius on April

20, 1946, the officials of the

meteorological department

They said the day tempera-

ture was 10.2 degrees above

normal. The average normal

day temperature for this

time of the season is 20.2

There was a significant rise

in mercury on Tuesday with

the weather stations in the

Kashmir valley registering

8.1 to 11.2 degrees above

normal temperature, the

officials said. They said

WEATHER

Sunset: 19:00 Hours

Sunrise: 06:01 Hours

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Min: 22

degrees Celsius.

Qazigund at 29.8

Max : 51

Max: 30.4°C

Max: 60

cials said.

STATE TIMES NEWS

the presence of terrorists, the officials said.

"Contact was established with terrorists during a joint

> Lasana, Surankote last night. Additional troops have been inducted, and operaing to prevent

the terrorists from escaping, Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps wrote on X. Officials said one Army personnel was injured in the fir-

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW

Herald case.

DELHI:

Enforcement Directorate has

filed a chargesheet against

Congress leaders Sonia

Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and

others on charges of money

laundering in the National

Special judge Vishal Gogne

examined the chargesheet,

which was filed on April 9, on

the point of cognisance and

posted the matter for further

names Congress leader Sam

Pitroda and Suman Dubey

"The present prosecution

chargesheet also

proceedings on April 25.

as accused persons.

Special Vande Bharat's trial conducted on Katra-Sangaldan section

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Ahead of its inau-

guration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 19, a special Vande Bharat train's trial run was successfully conducted on Tuesday on the Katra-Sangaldan sec- $_{
m the}$ ofUdhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Line (USBRL) which connects Kashmir with the rest of the The trial run is part of the

final arrangements for the inauguration of the world's highest railway bridge on the Chenab River, which falls in the Katra-Sangaldan section of the prestigious railway

National Herald case: ED chargesheets

Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi

complaint shall next be taken

up for consideration on the

aspect of cognisance before

this court on April 25, 2025

when the special counsel for

the ED and IO shall also

ensure the production of the

case diaries for perusal by

The chargesheet was filed

under Sections 3 (money

laundering) and 4 (punish-

ment for money laundering)

of Prevention of Money

Laundering Act by ED's spe-

cial public prosecutor N K

"Let the complaint be

checked and registered. The

Ahlmad (court staff) shall

the court," the judge said.



Bharat train from Jammu to Srinagar via Katra. The trial run of the special Vande Bharat train took place on the Katra-Sangaldan section

ensure that the entire

file/documents are properly

paginated. The ED is direct-

ed to file a soft copy of the

complaint and documents in

readable/OCR format by the

The special judge dealing

with the cases of lawmakers

also noted the submission of

the ED, which said it would

be moving an application

before the district judge for

the transfer of the case relat-

ed to the predicate offence,

being probed by the CBI for

alleged cheating, criminal

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

other

conspiracy and

offences, based on which

next date," the judge said.

Prime Minister Modi is expected to travel in the train on this bridge as part of the

He will later flag off the

connect Kashmir with Govt imposes complete ban on picnics by schools, colleges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Days after two students were killed and 21

on weekends, holidays

injured after their college bus turned turtle in Kupwara, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday imposed a complete ban on picnics by schools and colleges on weekends and holidays in the Union Territory.

Education Minister Sakeena Itoo also ordered installation of CCTV cameras and fire safety tools in college and school buses, besides other measures, to enhance student safety. Itoo, who also holds the

first train to Kashmir from Katra to begin the operation of train services between Katra and Baramulla and

tive of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF) terrorist organisation, a statement issued by

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: The National

Investigation Agency on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against three accused, including a Pakistani handler, in a terror conspiracy case involving seizure of arms and ammunition in the Poonch region of Jammu and Kashmir.

The chargesheet filed before a special NIA court in Jammu has named Abdul Aziz, Munawar Hussain and Nazir Hussain alias Nazir Ahmed alias Shaheen as accused in the case.

Nazir Hussain, currently active in Pakistan-occupied ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Kashmir (PoK), is an opera-

the probe agency said. According to NIA investiga-

tions, Nazir was involved in motivating vulnerable people of Kashmir to engage in acts of violence as part of the larger conspiracy hatched by various proscribed organisations and their associates to carry out terrorist activities in the region.

Nazir would share inflammatory audio clips and video notes with local sympathisers of the terror outfits, inciting them to pursue 'Jihad'

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Govt holds joint meeting to ensure cultivation of land near Pakistan border

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In an effort to ensure cultivation of availnear the land International Border with Pakistan, the Jammu and Kashmir authorities on Tuesday held a meeting with security agencies that focused on productive use of the patches to add to the local food basket.

The meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, was attended by Shailendra Kumar, principal secretary in the agriculture production department: Chandraker Bharti, principal secretary in the home department; the

Border Security Force's (BSF) Jammu frontier Inspector General Shashank Anand; and deputy commissioners of the border districts of Kathua, Jammu, Samba, Poonch and Rajouri, among others, an official said.

The meeting was called to discuss different measures to help farmers take up for cultivation the land patches between the fence and the International Border on the Indian side, he said.

The chief secretary emphasised on joint efforts by the agriculture department, and district administrations and security forces concerned to encourage farmers to cultivate all the arable land.

"We need to give all possible assistance to these farmers so that such fallow lands come into production from the next sowing season. Irrespective of the status of the land patches, these should be put to productive use to add to our local food basket," Dulloo said.

He said the department should facilitate the farmers owning the land patches, besides the security forces assuring their security.

Dulloo further directed senior agriculture

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Hopeful J&K's statehood will be restored: **Umar**

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said he was hopeful that statehood will be restored to Jammu and Kashmir very soon and the "appropriate time has come".

He was speaking to reporters after inaugurating a bridge in Pulwama district.

"We think the appropriate time has come, six months have passed after since the assembly elections. (Union Home Minister Amit) Shah came here, I had a separate meeting with him, a good one ... I am still hopeful that JK will soon get its statehood

On the opposition's charge the discussion on Waqf



back," Abdullah said.

that the ruling party scuttled



Amendment Act, he said the adjournment motion could

not have been admitted as the bill was passed by Parliament. "The Speaker made everything clear on the last day.

Perhaps, the mistake by the

members was that they

brought an adjournment

motion. An adjournment motion is only brought to discuss the works of the JK government because the government has to respond. "Tell me had that adjourn-

the Centre in the Parliament." he said. Abdullah said a resolution under different rules in the assembly might have been

admitted. ment motion been accepted, "However, that has passed how would we have respondnow. Many parties including National Conference have ed as the Waqf Bill was not brought by us. It was passed moved to the Supreme Court

before the apex court. Now, we will see what the SC says," he added.

and put forth their views

Commenting on the inauguration of the bridge, Abdullah said it was unfortunate that the bridge connecting Chrar-e-Sharief to south Kashmir tool 11 years to rebuild after being washed away in 2014 floods.

"It is unfortunate that this took a long time to rebuild. This bridge was washed away in 2104 floods and it has taken 11 years to rebuild it. I think this bridge was destined to be thrown open by us only. This bridge plays an important role in connecting south Kashmir with Chrar-e-Sharief," he

Terror funding case

Long incarceration no ground for bail in terror cases: Delhi HC

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has said an undertrial's long incarceration cannot be a ground to grant bail in terror cases, which have country-wide implications and the intent to destabilise the country's

unity among other things. A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur made the observation and denied bail to separatist leader Nayeem Ahmad Khan in a terror-funding case involving Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz

> The accused, who challenged a trial court order

the trial was not likely to conclude in near future and to balance the period of custody undergone by him with his fundamental right to liberty, he ought to be granted bail. "While we are aware that

against his bail plea, argued

the right of an undertrial to a speedy trial is of paramount consideration, in cases involving terrorist activities which have nation-wide implications and where there is an intention to destabilise the unity of the union of India and to disrupt its law and order, more so, to create terror in the minds of general public, which are also factors that weigh in, the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9